

important for us to do. But we also rejected efforts to further obstruct a woman's access to services they deserve and need and which we believe are within the law.

I also want to say something about Senator CORNYN. JOHN CORNYN—I talked to him Thursday. We thought we had something worked out. He has been very reasonable in helping us arrive at a conclusion to this. I express my appreciation to him publicly for that. This compromise is evidence that when Democrats and Republicans sit down together and work toward a solution, good things can happen. The Senate needs more of this.

But let's hope that post-agreement amendments do not ruin the agreement that we have reached. Each side is going to have to be cautious in what they offer, because any one of those amendments, as we know, can cause a minifilibuster or a maxifilibuster, according to how you look at it.

We do not need to get involved in that. We need to move forward on this legislation. We are going to have opportunities on other matters to offer amendments. I think we better be very, very careful on amendments that are offered. I say to my Republican colleagues: Be very careful that you do not destroy this human trafficking legislation that is so important. You can do it with—I have looked at some of the amendments that are being talked about being offered.

My Senators are not going to sit back like shrinking violets and let this stuff go forward without responding by action that will also cause some difficult votes for my Republican colleagues. So let's get rid of this quickly. Let's get Loretta Lynch confirmed quickly and move on to other matters.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on another subject, it is extremely difficult to compare one Congress to another. Each Congress is unique—changing times, shifting issues, and new administrations with which to work. But one manner of gauging the success of a Congress is simply to tally the number of Presidential nominees who have been confirmed. After all, offering its advice and consent on nominees is the Senate's constitutional duty.

If we were to use confirmations as a measuring stick, by all accounts the majority leader and Senate Republicans are failing in a spectacular fashion. So far this year, the Senate has confirmed 21 nominees—4 months, 21 nominees. It is unheard of to have such a small, small number. If that trend continues, the Republican-led Congress will confirm 63 nominees this year, 2015.

By contrast, in 2007, my first year as majority leader under the Bush administration, the Senate confirmed 276 executive and judicial nominees. It did not matter that Democrats were working with a Republican administration.

My disagreements with President George W. Bush have been well documented. That is an understatement.

But I worked with him on nominations because Democrats knew—and I knew—that it was only fair to give the President the team he needed to lead the country. Doesn't President Obama deserve the same? Of course he does. In 2007, each Democratic committee chair worked to move President Bush's nominees through committees and the Senate floor in a reasonable amount of time.

Yet we are seeing the opposite from Republican chairmen this year. They are refusing even to do hearings. Of course, if there are no hearings, there will be no nominations. In fact, Republicans have committed to holding up as many of the President's nominees as possible.

Here is what one senior Republican Senator said in the last few days: "I told them: You jam [nominees] through, it's going to be a long time before I approve of them."

What I say to that is that if this is a tantrum that the Republicans are having for changing the Senate rules, as we were forced to do, then revenge is not an effective way to govern. If it really is the case that Republicans loathe the changes to the Senate rules, why do they not do something about it? We are 4 months into this Congress, and the majority leader had ample opportunity—which he has had—to undo the changes we made. So change them if you do not like them.

It is clear the Republican plan for payback centers on allowing consideration of Presidential nominations to a trickle. Throwing a tantrum is not what the American people expect from their leaders. It is not fair to the President or the American people who elected him or the dedicated public servants who want to serve our country.

Ten years ago a young Senator from Texas said: "I would hope no one in this body would feel it necessary to bring all the leftover angst of the campaign season to bear against a bright and honorable nominee." Yet this is what the senior Senator from Texas and his party are doing today—doing exactly what he said should not be done.

America continues to look on in disbelief as Republicans delay Loretta Lynch's confirmation because they can. This is outrageous. One only needs to look at the CNN poll today to find out that the work done by the Republican Senate has been an absolute flop. So I certainly hope this is not what we are to expect during the duration of President Obama's term. I hope my Republican colleagues will demonstrate leadership and move the President's nominees.

Again, look at the CNN poll, I say to my Republican colleagues. It is a disaster for you. It is not only fair to move forward on President Obama's nominations, but it is a sworn duty Republicans have as Members of the Senate.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, with the majority controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the final half.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota be given 1 minute in morning business prior to the Republican time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, from the very beginning of this discussion on the trafficking bill and the underlying issue, Members on both sides of the aisle agreed that we need to get this bill back on track as the bipartisan effort it should be, because, without question, survivors of trafficking deserve our support.

Senator KLOBUCHAR has done an amazing job in getting us to this point to get this bill done. I am pleased that we were able to reach a deal that now gets this done in a way that does not expand restrictions on women's health to nontaxpayer dollars or to new programs and provides survivors with real, dedicated funds for the support and services they need.

No compromise is perfect. I am sure that Senator CORNYN would say the same thing. I believe there is more we can and must do when it comes to strengthening women's access to quality health care. But I am very pleased that Senator CORNYN and I, along with a number of other Senators on our side, including Senator KLOBUCHAR, were able to work together in a bipartisan way to get this done.

I want to thank him and all his colleagues for their work to get us to this point. I hope we can now get this legislation passed very quickly for survivors and move on to continue working together on the many challenges our country faces.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am very happy today that we have reached an agreement. I want to thank

Senator MURRAY for her leadership, and Senator REID, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator CORNYN. The two of us have worked on this issue for years. Finally, we are going to be able to move these really important bills forward.

What this compromise does is really set up two funds. The first uses Senator CORNYN's fund, which is fees on perpetrators, and it uses that for things such as shelters and law enforcement, things that we had envisioned would be used for people to combat sex trafficking. The second fund is a medical fund. It is really based on the same principle that we used with the SGR fund that we just voted on.

That bill passed 92 to 8. The fund will receive a minimum of \$5 million and would be matched up to \$30 million, as funding in the Cornyn fund goes up. It really is a parallel fund but serving the exact same purpose.

This is the way we were able to eliminate extraneous provisions but still keep the spirit of this really important bill and allow us to move on to my bill, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, which really is about not prosecuting kids under 18. There was huge bipartisan support over in the House. It passed unanimously through the Judiciary Committee and will be one of the amendments to this bill.

Again, I want to thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership. We have been a team on this. We have been able to work with Senator CORNYN and our friends across the aisle to get this done. It is also time—I will end by saying—to confirm the next Attorney General of the United States, Loretta Lynch.

I yield the floor.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased as well to hear that we have an agreement on the human trafficking legislation. It is something that should be above politics. Unfortunately, anything around here, it seems, gets sucked into politics from time to time, but it is important that we get an agreement that will allow us to advance this legislation.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased to hear of yet another accomplishment that has happened in the Senate since we have gotten things opened up and functioning again.

I wish to say that last year when Republicans were running for office, we promised that if we were reelected, we would get Washington working again for American families. That wasn't a campaign slogan; that was a commitment.

I am proud to report that after 100 days in office, Republicans are making significant progress. To start, Republicans have the Senate functioning again on a basic level.

From an operations standpoint day to day, over the past few years when

the Democrats controlled the law-making process in the Senate, it largely ground to a halt. Instead of bills being drafted in committee and then brought to the floor for open debate and amendment, bills were crafted behind closed doors. Members in the minority party were shut out of the process, and so were many rank-and-file Democrats. Last year, Democratic leadership allowed a total of 15 amendment votes—slightly over 1 amendment vote per month in the world's greatest deliberative body, known for unlimited amendment and unlimited debate. Contrast that with the first 100 days under Republican control. In the first 3½ months of the 114th Congress, the Republican-led Senate has held more than 100 amendment rollcall votes. More than half of those votes have been on Democratic amendments.

When you shut one party out of the legislative process in the Senate, you shut out the voices of millions of Americans. Republicans experienced that under Democratic control, and we were determined to make sure things were different this year.

Since Republicans took control of the Senate, Members of both parties have had the opportunity to make their voices heard, and we are seeing a lot more bipartisan legislation as a result. In the past 3½ months, the Republican-led Senate has approved 12 bipartisan bills. We have passed bipartisan legislation to approve the Keystone Pipeline. We have passed a bipartisan bill to prevent suicides among veterans. We have passed a bipartisan reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program and a bipartisan bill to provide restitution for victims of child pornography. Last week, we passed the first significant bipartisan reform of Medicare in years.

Mr. President, last week also brought the announcement of a new bipartisan agreement, a bill to reauthorize trade promotion authority.

With 96 percent of the world's population and consumers outside the borders of the United States, trade is essential to economic growth.

Since 2009, increasing exports have accounted for more than 1.6 million new jobs in the United States. Manufacturing jobs that depend on exports pay on average 13 percent to 18 percent more.

U.S. farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers rely on access to foreign markets. In my home State of South Dakota alone, exports support more than 15,000 jobs in industries ranging from farming and ranching to machinery and electronics. Farmers and ranchers in South Dakota, where agriculture is the No. 1 industry, depend on exports for a substantial part of their income. Exports of major South Dakota crops, such as soybeans and corn, have soared over the past few years. In fact, in 2013, total agricultural exports from South Dakota totaled \$3.8 billion.

Previous free- and fair-trade agreements have been a boon to America's

farmers, ranchers, and workers. In 2013, countries with which our Nation has free-trade agreements purchased 12 times more goods per capita from the United States than non-free-trade agreement countries.

Since 1934, almost all of the U.S. free-trade agreements have been negotiated using trade promotion authority or a similar streamlined process. Trade promotion authority is designed to put the United States in the strongest possible position when negotiating trade agreements.

Under TPA, Congress sets guidelines for trade negotiations and outlines the priorities the administration must follow. In return, Congress promises a simple up-or-down vote on the resulting trade agreement instead of a long amendment process that could leave the final deal looking nothing like the original one. That simple up-or-down vote is the key: It lets our negotiating partners know that Congress and trade negotiators are on the same page when it comes to the content of trade agreements, which gives other countries the confidence they need to put their best offers on the table. That, in turn, allows for a successful and timely conclusion of negotiations.

Currently, the administration is negotiating two major trade agreements that have the potential to vastly expand the market for American goods and services in the EU and in the Pacific.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is being negotiated with a number of Asia-Pacific nations, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, and currently Vietnam. Currently, American goods face heavy tariffs in many of these countries. Tariffs on consumer goods in Trans-Pacific Partnership countries reach as high as 85 percent, while tariffs on agricultural products range even higher. Poultry tariffs in Trans-Pacific Partnership countries, for example, go up to 240 percent. That is a tremendous burden on American producers.

American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and consumers would all benefit from the conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and the United States-European Union trade agreement. These trade deals remove many of the barriers currently facing U.S. products in these regions, which would allow American goods to compete on a level playing field with their foreign counterparts. Reauthorizing trade promotion authority is essential to bringing these two agreements to a successful and timely conclusion.

The bipartisan trade promotion authority bill that was introduced last week by the senior Senators from Utah and Oregon reauthorizes this key tool and includes a number of important updates, such as provisions to strengthen